PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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LECTURE CXXXIX.

PLEA FOR A STANDING UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE.

by

Raymond Clapper, the noted American columnist.

All of the United Nations are to be invited to a meeting which will be held in the United States before long to consider post-war arrangements.

What we hope for from the meeting is not a complete blue print of the future but the creation of some continuing machinery of the United Nations so that the requirements of the future might be studied. We do not need plans for dealing with the future nearly so much as we need an organization of competent people who are ready to go to work. Without such an organization, even the best-drawn plans will be merely filed away for reference.

A sound, practical analysis of what can and should be done has just been completed by the Commission to Study the Organization of Peace. This is a group of public-spirited Americans, many of them with years of technical experience in international affairs. The Chairman, Dr. James T. Shotwell, is one of the world's foremost authorities on problems of collective security. The group is not official, but its report undoubtedly will be thoughtfully considered in official quarters.

CONTINUING CONFERENCE.

The most important recommendation in the report is that the United Nations organize themselves into a continuing conference as soon as possible.

This conference would have nothing to do with the military conduct of the war. On that, the Commission's report makes a wise distinction. The responsibility for conducting the war must rest with the few large nations that are fighting it and which alone have the military resources for waging it. They must exercise full responsibility in military affairs.

But in the post-war preparations and rehabilitation work that must follow the advancing Allied armies, the United Nations as a body can and should assume the responsibilities.

The war is not likely to end in all places at once. We shall have war going on in some places and reconstruction in others. The armies should not have to divert their effort to do wet-nursing in liberated territory. The United Nations conference should assume that duty. The lack of preparation for it in North Africa has loaded General Eisenhower with headaches which should have been borne by others. With the invasion of the Continent, the need for such assistance behind the lines will expand rapidly.

ASSURANCE FOR FUTURE.

A conference of the United Nations, organized into a standing body, would serve as the best kind of assurance toward the future. It need be only a temporary, provisional body concerned with rehabilitation and transition work. As the report of Dr. Shotwell's Commission says, the United Nations will acquire a reputation for honest, efficient administration in the interests of the community of nations, if they develop trust and respect, if they establish organs which prove of value to the community; then it may be hoped that peoples and States will want to carry on such a system permanently after the war.

I think we have here a practical route of accomplishment; not in an overreaching blue print nor, on the other hand, in a halting island-by-island plan that might never arrive anywhere in time but only provide too little, too late.

There is no time to delay. The nations are already making their plans, as they must. The small nations are setting up boundary claims in shrill voices already, and they are trying to play one Power against another. If there is to be no United Nations, if it is to be each nation standing alone, then to achieve security, deals must be made and allies sought by any means that work.

But a strong, continuing United Nations organization now would cushion some of these fears and moderate the claims which are being made. This is the time to set it up.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

20—3—43 to 26—3—43.

Russia.—

(*a*) *Far north.*—The Finnish port of POTSDAM is under shell-fire of the Russians.

(*b*) *Centre.*—Four Russian columns are advancing on SMOLENSK, the great German base; from BYELI, KHOLM ZHIRKOVSKY, along the railway west of VYASMA and south-west of VYASMA. The first of these columns has captured

BATURINO; the second, UGORYIEVSKOE; the third, IZDESHKOVO, VAVINO and DUROVO and the fourth VAKHODI.

According to the latest reports the Russians are threatening YARTSEVO, 25 miles east of SMOLENSK.

(c) *The Kharkov front.*–The Russians have evacuated BYELGOROD. Heavy fighting is reported in the CHUGUYEV area. The enemy's attempt to cross the Donetz has been frustrated. The German News Agency of March 22 announces a halt in the German offensive on the Donetz front, 'due to the need for regrouping'.

Tunisia.—

(a) *Mareth line.*—'The Eighth Army is on the move.' The attack which began on Saturday night (March 20–21) on the Mareth line from KSAR PHILANE towards the coast is proceeding well. A British force of about 30 tanks and 2,000 vehicles is taking part. According to a German News Agency, 'the fighting going on at present has assumed such proportions that it is no exaggeration to speak of a big battle'.

(b) *Southern sector.*–American forces in this sector having captured GAFSA, SENED, EL GUETTAR and BOU HAMRAN, are now heading for MAKNASSY on the road to GABES.

(c) *Northern sector.*–The main German effort is confined to this sector, where the enemy is trying to gain as much elbow room as possible into which to retreat, when squeezed back from North-East TUNISIA. Here under enemy pressure Allied troops have been withdrawn from TAMARA and NEFSA.

[Since writing the above, news has come that NEFSA in the north has been retaken, that MAKNASSI, in the centre, has fallen, and that the British Eighth Army has penetrated the Mareth Line in the extreme north, in the best part of the Axis defences. Hard fighting is now going on between Rommel's troops and a British force 20 miles south-west of EL HAMMA. This means that the Eighth Army has also bypassed the Mareth position and is swinging towards the sea at GABES—Editor.]

The Pacific.—

(a) *In New Guinea*, some months ago, the Japanese landed troops in the MAMBARE and KUMUSI areas to block the Allied advance to the coast. Allied forces steadily advancing from BUNA have now cleared both the areas.

(b) A Japanese convoy of 3 ships was bombed off the coast of Dutch NEW GUINEA and a Japanese destroyer off the SOLOMONS.

(c) There were six air-raids on KISKA on a single day. The total number of attacks for the month is already 17.

(d) The following Japanese bases were raided:—VILA, KAHILI, BUKA, MUNDA, SALAMUA, RAPOPO, GASMATA, CAPE GLOUCESTER, MADANG, FINSCHHAFEN, CAPA NAMARIPI, ESANGGOER, LORENGANU, ARAWE, and SERINATA Island.

(*e*) On March 20, Japanese planes dropped bombs on PORLOCK Harbour in NEW GUINEA. The wharf was damaged. There were no casualties.

China.—

(*a*) Frustrated in their attempt to cross the Salween *North* of the BURMA Road the Japanese have launched a new drive *South* of it.

(*b*) On the YUNNAN-BURMA border the Japanese have launched a northward attack from TENGCHUNG against PANMAICHI.

(*c*) In the HUPEH-HUNAN border Chinese forces have re-entered HUAYUNG. The enemy has taken KIANGSI-TAP.

(*d*) In the LUNCHING sector the Japanese are on the retreat.

Burma.—

(*a*) *On the Arakan Front* enemy pressure continues east of the Mayu River, with the result that Allied positions have had to be readjusted to prevent isolation north of RATHEDAUNG which stands on ths Mayu River. The situation north of RATHEDAUNG is said to be critical. The difficulty is lack of sea support. If ships could have been spared from other theatres AKYAB could have been taken easily, and the Mayu Peninsula cut off. Without sea support the advance has to be necessarily slow, as supplies have to come by Sampans. The enemy has the advantage of road and water communications from AKYAB.

(*b*) Allied forward detachments, till recently on the Kaladan River in the *Kanzauk area* have joined the main forces.

(*c*) In *the Upper Chindwin* area two enemy villages were bombed and fires were started.

(*d*) *In Northern Burma* the Japanese advance against the Kachan levies has stopped and the enemy has withdrawn. The levies are now harassing the enemy.

(*e*) The following places were raided during the week by the R. A. F. and the U. S. Air force:-MYTINGE, MYITKYINA, KADRANGYANG, BHAMO and HEPO.

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

14—3—43 (Sunday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—

Airfields at MAUPERTIUS and ABBE VILLE.
Offensive sweeps over the Northern FRANCE and BELGIUM (2 Axis planes lost).

NIGHT:—

Communications in GERMANY and occupied EUROPE.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

MARETH LINE.

Air combats over the ALGERIAN coast (2 Axis planes lost).
Enemy shipping in the SICILIAN CHANNEL.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all over the entire RUSSIAN front.

FAR EAST.

The airfield at BUKA (Solomons).
The wharf area at UBILI (N. Britain).
A Jap vessel off CAPE HOSKINS,
The airfield at GASMATA (N. Britain).
Enemy anti-aircraft positions at CAPE GLOUCESTER.
DILI (Timor).
An enemy convoy off WEWAK (3 ships sunk).
The airfield at MADANG.
Goktaik viaduct in BURMA.
The dock area at MOULMEIN.

15—3—43. (Monday).

EUROPE.

DAY :—

The airfield at ST. BRIEUC (France).
Enemy shipping off the DUTCH coast.

NIGHT :—

Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Aircraft on the ground at MEZZOUNA.
•**2 supply ships** off TUNISIA.
Airfields and railway near GABES.
Motor barges south of SICILY.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the entire Eastern Front.

FAR EAST.

The airfield and town of TRIND.
The airfield at FINSCHHAFEN.
Jap positions at MUBO (N. Guinea).
Airfields at GASMATA (N. Britain) and CAPE GLOUCESTER.
Enemy vessels off KÂINMANA (Dutch N. Guinea), and ARU Island (some ships sunk; many damaged).
Enemy positions in the RATHEDAUNG area (Burma).
Aerodrome at TOUNGOO (Burma).
Jap installations at KISKA (Aleutians).

16—3—43 (Tuesday).

EUROPE.

DAY :—

Railway workshops at PADERBORN (1 Allied plane missing).

NIGHT :—

Targets in Western GERMANY.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

An enemy convoy between SICILY and TUNISIA.
MARETH Line.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the entire Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Enemy positions at KAHILI and BALLALE.
Airfields at BUKA and MUNDA (N. Georgia).
VILA (Kolambangara).
Allied base at SALAMAUA.
Viru harbour in New GEORGIA Island.
The enemy submarine base at KISKA.
Villages in the AKYAB area (Burma).

17—3—43 (Wednesday).

EUROPE.

NIGHT :—

Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy vehicles retreating from GAFSA.
Offensive patroals over the various battle areas in TUNISIA.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the entire Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap vessels off MCCLUER GULF and KAI Islands.
Barracks and workshops at LANGGOER.
The airfield at RABAUL.
The MYITGNE bridge in BURMA.
Railroad bridges at MYITKYINA and at KADRANGYANG.

18—3—43 (Thursday).

EUROPE.

DAY :—

U-Boat yards at VAGESACK (Germany) (2 American planes and many Axis planes destroyed).

NIGHT :—

The Naval base at NAPLES.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy vehicles retreating from GAFSA.
Railways near GABES.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all over the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

TIMIKA (Dutch N. Guinea).
KOEPANG (Timor).
LANGGOER (KAI Islands).
AMBOINA (6 Jap planes shot down).
GASMATA (N. Britain).
CAPE GLOUCESTER.
LORENGAU (Admiralty Islands).
KAVIENG (N. Ireland).
BUKA (Solomons).
MADANG, ALEXISHAFFEN and **SALAMAUA** (all in N. Guinea).
Jap vessels in TALA Sea.
PAZUNDAUNG and MYITGNE bridges in Burma.
Jap positions in the MYITKYINA area.

19—3—43 (Friday).

EUROPE.

DAY and **NIGHT :—**

No air activity over EUROPE owing to weather conditions.

TUNISIA and NORTH AFRICA.

Offensive sweeps over fighting areas in TUNISIA.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

A Jap submarine at LAE (N. Guinea).
Enemy positions at MUBO (N. Guinea).
KOEPANG (Timor).
LORENGAU (Admiralty Islands).
GASMATA (N. Britain).
CAPE GLOUCESTER.
Buildings at ARAWE.
A bigger off SERMATA Island.
KISKA (Aleutians).
Villages in the AKYAB area (Burma).

20—3—43 (Saturday).

EUROPE.

DAY :—

A railway target at LEER (Germany).
Railway targets in BELGIUM.

NIGHT :—

A railway viaduct at MORLAIX.
Railway targets in FRANCE.

NORTH AFRICA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

A destroyer in the central MEDITERRANEAN (hit).
GABES.
A factory at POZZAZLO (Sicily).
Targets in Southern ITALY.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft along the Eastern Front.

FAR EAST.

An enemy freighter off CAPE VANDEN BOSCH.
KAIMANA (Dutch N. Guinea).
LANGGOER (KAI Islands).
MADANG and FINSCHAFEN (N. Guinea).
AMBON.
An enemy freighter off GAZELE Peninsul.
KISKA (Aleutians).
The area between BUTHIDAUNG and RATHEDAUNG (Burma).
MYITSON.
BHAMO and **TOUNGOO** (all in Burma).

ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

15—3—43 (Monday).

BRITAIN.

South-East and South coasts of ENGLAND. (4 Axis planes lost).

NORTH AFRICA.

TRIPOLI.

RUSSIA.

KHARKOV.

FAR EAST.

The airfield at GUADALCANAR.

16—3—43 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

No air attack anywhere in BRITAIN.

NORTH AFRICA.

TAMERA.

RUSSIA.

Russian positions South-East of KHARKOV.

FAR EAST.

Port DARWIN (2 Jap planes and 2 allied planes missing).

17—3—43 (Wednesday).

BRITAIN.

South-west coast of ENGLAND and East ANGLIA.

NORTH AFRICA.

TAMERA.

RUSSIA.

Russian position North-east of KHARKOV.

FAR EAST.

No information.

18—3—43 (Thursday).

BRITAIN.

No information available.

NORTH AFRICA.

Forward positions of the 8th Army.

RUSSIA.

KHARKOV area.

FAR EAST.

MERAUKE (Dutch N. Guinea).

19—3—43 (Friday).

BRITAIN.

No air activity.

TUNISIA.

No enemy air activity.

FAR EAST.

The airfield at GUADALCANAR.

20—3—43 (Saturday).

BRITAIN.

No air raid anywhere in BRITAIN.

TUNISIA.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA.

Russian position in the Northern DONETZ area.

21—3—43 (Sunday).

BRITAIN.

No information available.

TUNISIA.

Air combats over the Algerian coast (1 Axis plane shot down).

RUSSIA.

BYELGOROD.

FAR EAST.

MERAUKE (N. Guinea).

SIDE LIGHTS.

VICTORY IS COMING. We begin our Weekly comment with the words of hope and assurance which two of our great leaders have spoken during the week—both of them soldiers once, and statesmen—Mr. Churchill and Field Marshal Smuts.

'On the battle fronts the clouds are lifting,' so said Field Marshal Smuts on March 20, 'The tide has turned and turned for good, whatever desperate deadly expedients the enemy may yet resort to in his despair.

'Victory is coming nearer, however far it may be. The historic human advance will not be halted—the great light will not be put out. This will be a free and not a slave world.'

Mr. Churchill's broadcast of March 21 strikes a similar and more cautious note.

'Speaking with every reserve, and not attempting to prophecy, I can imagine that some time next year—but it may well be the year after, we might beat Hitler, by which I mean, him and his powers of evil, into death, dust and ashes.'

THE RUSSIAN SITUATION. The early appearance of thaw has led to a change in the plan of operations on both sides. If the thaw had appeared at the usual time the Russians would have had time to complete their grand offensive, sweep down to the coast of AZOV and bring off another STALINGRAD.

But it was not to be. So, leaving behind enough forces in the south to keep the Germans at bay, the main offensive was switched to the centre and the north, till the summer should arrive for the resumption of the offensive in the south. Meanwhile, the enemy is attacked at widely separated points so as to disperse and weaken his forces.

The Red Army in the centre is striking along a 700 mile front from STARAYA RUSSA to OREL, in a quadrangle formed by VELIKIE LUKI, RZHEV, VYASMA and SMOLENSK.

On the other hand, the enemy is exploiting the thaw in the south, for all it is worth, taking advantage of the splendid net-work of railways which he still commands. Throwing in his weight of men and metal, he has re-taken KHARKOV, and is madly striving to regain the initiative in the Donetz region.

What the Germans may do when the summer comes no one can surmise. At present their aim is to hold on to the Donetz basin and the Kuban bridge-head, hoping for a renewal of hostilities on the Volga and CAUCASUS in summer. But it is doubtful whether their attack will have the necessary weight. They are yielding ground before MOSCOW and LENINGRAD. Their KHARKOV battle has been so costly that it is unlikely that they have any large reserves for future operations.

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THE 'NEW DEAL.' We are glad to see signs of an early settlement of the political differences between the anti-Nazi and the anti-Vichy French elements, under the respective leader-ship of Giraud and De Gaulle. Giraud has taken the initiative in effecting a rapprochement. Broadcasting on Sunday last he gave the assurance that he disowned the Vichy Armistice and the German annexation of ALSACE-LORRAINE, promised to abolish the hateful Vichy laws against Jews and Arabs and agreed to revive the republican form of Government so dear to the French heart. Only one of De Gaulle's demands remains—the establishment of a Central Representative Government.

Giraud has followed his word with action. Since he spoke he has taken important steps to introduce what he calls the North African 'New Deal'. He has issued decrees repealing 62 laws against the Jews and set free thousands of patriots unjustly incarcerated during the Vichy administration. The Municipal Assemblies have been restored. Justice will hereafter be administered in the name of the old Republic.

At the close of his Sunday broadcast Giraud made a fervent appeal for union between the two parties. He said:

'Union is essential. It is a question of life and death for our country. Union in struggle alone can ensure union in the reconstruction of the homeland after victory.

'For my own part I am ready to co-operate.'

The appeal has not gone in vain. De Gaulle has accepted Giraud's invitation to meet him at ALGIERS, and the French National Committee whom De Gaulle leads has agreed to the principle of union of all French groups.

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THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT IN FRANCE is spreading. French patriots organising guerilla warfare from the mountain fastnesses of SAVOIE have established themselves in the Romme plateau. The moral foundation for their resistance lies in their conviction that they could have continued the struggle in 1940, if only the Armistice had not been signed. The tension in the HAUT-SAVOIE area is high. But while the Germans haughtily demand the surrender of the patriots, the Vichy and Italian authorities hesitate to unleash their armed forces for fear of a general rising which may spread to other areas. GERMANY thought that she could degrade FRANCE by defeat and crush her out of existence. But, as Giraud has put it, in June 1940, FRANCE suffered only bodily defeat; her soul was never defeated. It is an amazing spectacle that now at the very moment when GERMANY and ITALY are attempting to partition her she is being re-born, not only outside, in Northern AFRICA but on the very soil of the Motherland itself. Fifty thousand Frenchmen are now facing the Germans in TUNISIA; thousands have come a long way from LIBYA and CHAD and joined them; FRANCE is in revolt.

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THE MAN HUNT. Herr Sauckel, GERMANY's man-power Chief, has asked Laval for a quarter of a million French workers. In response, young men are arrested in the streets, herded in wagons and conveyed to GERMANY. French workers are arrested as they leave their factories and deported, without time to say farewell. In the suburbs of towns, trams are stopped and workers are arrested on their way home. Such is the industrial call-up in FRANCE at German bidding. In spite of all this tyranny the mobilisation has not gone well. Only 40 per cent have so far presented themselves; the rest are in hiding.

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GERMAN MOBILISATION AT HOME. Inside GERMANY, mobilisation is frantically pushed forward. According to a Swedish Press Report it will soon lead to the closing of 50,000 craftsman's workshops and 50,000 retail shops in BERLIN city alone.

THE BERLIN RAID of March 1, as the latest reports show, was 'the biggest ever.' At least 1,000 people were killed, 45 bomb craters were created in one shopping street alone and huge fires were seen burning even after three days. BERLIN's military authorities have admitted this, and the Hungarian broadcast of March 3 has described the raid as 'the heaviest yet'. But German propaganda tries to play it down. Goebbels says that the raid is only to please the Russians and to enable Churchill to curry favour with the Kremlin.

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DOUBLE FACED. But Goebbels knows how to beg as well as how to lie, to appeal to pity as well as to insinuate. Admitting the severity of the British raid on NUREMBERG he says:—

'After these raids people now break down in public. I myself have seen them weeping in the trains as they leave the raided town.

'Little does our enemy think of the cruelty and sorrow that he inflicts on our women and children. He has no pity'.

The whirligig of time has brought its revenge. The ravager of BRITAIN in 1940 is meeting his doom. Now the Hun realises his crime. The German broadcast quoted above continues:—

'Yet it can be said that in secret we often thought of the victims of German raids on British towns. We pitied the sufferings of those English people who lost their homes. We hate this kind of warfare'.

Let the reader beware. This is neither repentance nor contrition, but the Nazi's cunning way of invoking mercy to escape punishment now.

Goebbels also refers to the destruction of NUREMBERG's Museum, theatre, hospitals, and the famous 15th century Mant-halle.

To these mandlin appeals in the name of humanity and culture, the *Daily Herald* supplies a fitting answer:—

" Sir Archibald Sinclair's account of our bomber campaign (the reference is to his recent speech in the House of Commons when presenting the Air Estimates) is encouraging and terrible. None but a fool would deny the necessity for these measures. None but a barbarian would gloat over the destruction of civilian lines and non-military buildings which they involve. Where military objectives are placed in the heart of civilian, 'cultural' centres they must nevertheless be bombed. Our enemy has forced this hideous practice upon us. He for his part shows not the slightest inclination to relax it. Therefore we dare not—GERMANY is rich in shrines of art. *But the most precious museum is worthless to the world while Hitler remains its curator.* We must make great sacrifices in order to gain a greater boon–freedom of the mind, in which men will recreate and surpass the glories of the culture which Hitlerism has halted"

THE DOUBLE BLOW. The new technique of the Allied air offensive over GERMANY is to deliver simultaneous blows on separate places far removed from each other. Thus, on March 4 HAMM and ROTTERDAM were simultaneously attacked. On March 8, RENNES and ROUEN, and on March 9, BREST and LORIENT. The object if these tactics is to prevent a concentration of the enemy's defences, and to make him fall between two stools should he attempt to defend both the targets. The technique has already met with success. On March 4, while ROTTERDAM was defended not a German fighter was sighted over HAMM.

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THE U-BOAT. Throughout the winter months enemy propaganda, for want of better news, has been magnifying the exploits of the U-boat in an attempt to cover up the defeats on the Russian front. Figures, true and false, false rather than true, of Allied shipping losses have been announced. But while the U-boat menace undoubtedly exists for the Allies, it is also easy to prove that on the other half Axis ships also have to face a similar menace from Allied submarines. For instance, within 10 days, as an Admiralty report issued on March 11 says, 'two of His Majesty's submarines in the Mediterranean have sunk four large enemy supply ships, a tanker, a naval auxiliary vessel and two more small supply ships. Two of the larger ships and the tanker were torpedoed off Sicily. The other two were sunk off Northern Italy'.

Such is the day-to-day battle now being waged in the Mediterranean, this is the way in which pressure is exercised on the few seaways still open to the enemy; this is also the way in which supplies are prevented from reaching Rommel.

Nor is the U-boat menace so great as the enemy propaganda would make it out. Allied convoys are arriving very well, delivering supplies without interruption. As Sir A. Cunningham, Allied Naval Commander, in the Mediterranean has stated, nearly 1,000 ships have been safely escorted to North AFRICA since the operations in this theatre began.

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THE ANGLO-AMERICAN CONFERENCE held in WASHINGTON to consider the problems involved in the Allied U-boat campaign, has as its chief object the task of clearing the sea in order to open a second land front. Mr. A. V. Alexander referring to these talks has stated, 'There is no complacency. The situation is much too serious. Those responsible are working day and night, and will not leave undone a single thing that can be done to meet the situation. First priority is being given in all British and American plans to the task of overcoming the U-boat'.

ANGLO-TURKISH CORDIALITY. The Axis is evidently frightened by the growing Anglo-Turkish friendship. The fake Azad Muslim League Radio puts out that Anglo-American statesmen are trying their best to drag TURKEY into the war. Mr. Churchill, of course, has given the assurance that there is no such intention. But the Axis is sorry that the friendship grows. On Wednesday last (March 17) M. Sarajoglu, TURKEY's Prime Minister announced TURKEY's policy, and the Turkish Assembly gave him an unanimous vote of confidence. M. Sarajoglu said :—

"We warmly grasp the hand extended to us by the British, and reaffirm that the Anglo-Turkish friendship is not dictated by the emergencies of the moment.

"Since the ADANA Conference we have got to know Mr. Churchill more intimately and to love him better.

"Our friends the British may rest assured that we cordially grasp the outstretched hands of friendship, and that we regard the sincere words coming from London as an echo of our own words to London".

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'TURKEY'S DEFENSIVE SECURITY' as it is called, is now the prime task of the British Government. A joint British-Turkish Mission is improving communications and equipping the Turkish army with the latest weapons. The visit of Sir Sholto Douglas, the Middle East Air Chief to ANKARA is significant. Supplies of Lease—Lend materials, aircraft, and submarines are pouring in. R. A. F. Instructors are training the Turkish Air Force.

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ITALY'S WAR RECORD. The Turkish paper *Yeni Sabah* (Istanbul) has given the following slashing reply to a recent Italian charge that Turkish newspapers slandered ITALY. Says the paper :—

"There is no need to resort to slander. It is sufficient to note the real facts. We can write about the Italians who dreamt of domination over Europe and were beaten, about their armies which cannot make a stand anywhere, about the Italian airforce which is unable to fly, about the navy which is unable to sail. We do accompany the Italian official communiqués with a question mark. For, if we published them as trustworthy, readers would pelt us with rotten eggs. Perhaps we ought to write about the victories of the Italian arms? The Italians have evidently forgotten about Abyssinia, Somaliland and Eritrea, and also Libya and Tripolitania, and about the hundreds of thousands of Italian prisoners of war in Allied hands, who can deprive neutral journalists of the right to laugh at what is really laughable".

CHUNGKING AND NANKING, as the reader knows, are the independent and JAPAN-occupied parts of CHINA. CHUNGKING is under the able leadership of Marshal Chiang Kai Shek, while Wang-Ching-Wei is the puppet chief of the puppet Government of NANKING.

JAPAN has now announced that on March 30 she will hand over her concessions in CHINA to NANKING. It may be remembered that some time earlier she compelled the French and Italian Governments to relinquish their extra-territorial rights in CHINA to NANKING.

But they are not favours granted in the spirit of 'co-prosperity', nor even a slavish imitation of the goodwill that Britain and the U. S. recently showed by giving up their extra-territorial rights in CHINA to CHUNGKING.

The Chinese, whether of NANKING or of CHUNGKING, hate the Japanese. CHINA will never bow to the conqueror. NANKING detests the Japanese as much as CHUNGKING, the only difference being that while Wang, living in a fool's paradise, resorts to guile to overthrow the tyrant, Chiang, in a more manly way delivers blow for blow.

But CHUNGKING's struggle is NANKING's opportunity. So long as CHUNGKING fights, NANKING will be humoured and given concessions; that is the bribe. If CHUNGKING goes under, NANKING will be swallowed. NANKING may well be thankful to CHUNGKING for what she is able to extort from her overlord.

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THE DEFENCE OF INDIA. We have once more the happy assurance of the Commander-in-Chief that INDIA can now defend herself against the invader, and beat and defeat him if he comes. The security of INDIA has been established by sea, land and air. There has been a tremendous concentration of effort in constructing aerodromes, opening communications, providing anti-aircraft and coastal defences and organising and training the forces. The army is expanding as fast as the men can be clothed, equipped, accommodated and trained. Training is the only limiting factor; it takes time. Modern warfare is so complex with its variety of weapons and machines that it takes at least six months to make a soldier.

We heartily commend the Commander-in-Chief's call for men. 'We still require a large number of Indian youth for the training, and especially of the educated youth. It is no light task, but an essential one for the future of our civilisation'

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M. ATAY ON INDIA'S DEFENCE. M. Rifiki Atay, as the reader may be aware, was the leader of the Turkish Press Delegation which recently toured INDIA. In his semi-official paper he has made a statement about INDIA's Defence, which reads

like a commentary on the Commander-in-Chief's pronouncement. He has written :—

'The British and their Allies have built stocks of every kind and type of war material in the Middle East and India, where they have succeeded in enlisting and training voluntary armies.

'In India, military training centres, established in accordance with the most modern methods, are training hundreds of thousands of volunteers for motorised and mechanised units.'

ANGLO-AMERICAN AID TO RUSSIA.

(*Luis Arquistain*).

Seven thousand tanks, 4,000 aeroplanes and 17,000 guns, which, according to the recent statement made by M. Stalin, the Germans have lost during the three months of the Russian counter-offensive this winter are very impressive figures. They suggest indirectly the enormous amount of war material which the Soviet army had to use to achieve such a great destruction of German forces.

We do not know the figures of the Russian war production, but their output must have remained very high in spite of the loss of their best industrial centres during the German advance. Recently, other figures have been published which help to explain the present offensive power of the Russian army. According to Mr. Alexander, the First Lord of the Admiralty Great Britain and the United States sent to Russia from October, 1941, to the end of 1942 6,000 tanks, 5,600 aeroplanes and 85,000 lorries. This is nearly as many tanks as those lost by the Germans and 1,600 aeroplanes more.

The enormous number of lorries supplied also explains the extraordinary mobility of the Russian army in spite of the loss of vital rail communications and rolling stock.

There must be added to these supply figures hundreds of thousands tons of machinery, tools, ammunition, foodstuffs and small arms that have also been sent to Russia. The exact total figure, according to Mr. Lyttelton, Minister of Production, had reached up to July to over 190,000 tons of the 250,000 tons promised. It may well be supposed that by now the promise made has been completely fulfilled.

GREAT BRITAIN'S CONTRIBUTION.

Of the consignments mentioned above Great Britain alone supplied 2,974 tanks and over 3,000 aeroplanes. This implies a very large tonnage for transport and a considerable number of warships to convoy the merchantmen over such dangerous routes.

Thanks to these immense Anglo-American supplies added to her own, not to mention the inestimable valour of her own soldiers, Russia has been able to inflict on the Nazi military colossus one of the most serious defeats that any army has ever suffered. The importance of this co-operation does not lie only in the quantity but also in the order of preferential priority.

While Russia was receiving these materials, making it possible for her to prepare her victorious counter-offensive, the British army under Auchinleck had to retreat last summer to the Egyptian frontier because of lack of armaments.

In so far as there has been priority in the distribution of war material and reinforcements, this has probably not been in favour of the African theatre of war. During the last few days we have reason to belive that the Allied retreat in some sectors of the Tunisian front was due to the superiority of enemy armaments.

Yet it is known that there has been a gigantic increase in Anglo-Saxon war production. Even as far back as March, 1942, the United Kingdom was producing double the number of tanks compared with August, 1941. In June, 1942, the production of tanks, lorries and other mechanised vehicles was at the rate of 257,000 a year. In August, 1942, the British army had at its disposal half a million vehicles whereas at the beginning of the war it only had 45,000.

It is, however, certain that up to the end of 1942, production had not reached a sufficiently high level to supply everything necessary for the various fronts and that in allocation, the Russian front was one of the most favoured. **The current year will be a year in which the Anglo-American production will not only be sufficient but will exceed all demands.** Meanwhile, Hitler is choosing to supply his African forces even at the cost of sacrificing his armies in Russia. For Hitler, at the present moment, the Ango-American campaign is more vital than the Russian. By holding up the Allies in the Tunisian sector, he hopes to gain time to extend his defences along those coasts of Europe most exposed to future invasion.

HITLER FEARS EUROPEAN REVOLT.

He fears that as soon as the Anglo-American armies put their feet on the European soil the whole occupied western and southern Europe will rise as one man against him.

Hence his desperate attempt to prolong the war in Africa.

The latest news is that Hitler is concentrating troops along the French coast of the Gulf of Lions from Marseilles to the Pyrenees. Some consider that this is a new threat against Spain. My own opinion, which I have repeated many times, is that a neutral Spain is what at the present time would be most convenient for Hitler.

As in Russia his greatest desire in the rest of Europe is to shorten his internal lines in order more easily to be able to defend them. But this is equivalent to "locking the stable door ..."

THE PHILIPPINES' BLIGHTED HOPES.

Far East News Letter.

The Philippines were on the threshold of full independence when the war overtook them. Under the terms of the Tydings-McDuffie Act the Philippines had been since November 1935 a self-governing Commonwealth enjoying a status comparable roughly to that of a British dominion. On July 4th, 1946, it was to become a fully sovereign republic. The Filipinos regarded the ten-year Commonwealth period as years of preparation for full independence. The Japanese, however, cut short their programme of nation-building and, instead, imposed a rule of their own.

After the fall of the Corregidor fort the whole administration of the Philippines was taken over by the Japanese military authorities. General Homma, Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese forces in the Philippines, became the supreme authority in the country. All military orders were strictly enforced. Curfew regulations continued for a long time. Even in August people were reminded that curfew orders were in full effect and that those, who disregarded them, would be severely punished. These strict measures, however, did not deter people from continuing resistance to the Japanese military rule.

From month to month reports have come of the guerilla warfare carried on by the Filipinos. The provincial cities of Cebu and Zamboanga were already destroyed as a consequence of 'scorched earth' policy adopted by the Filipinos. The people of Zamboanga were determined not to let the Japanese derive any benefit from their docks, stores, warehouses and railway facilities. Again in a house to house search in the northern districts of Greater Manila the Japanese, according to a Manila broadcast in English on 19th July, found firearms, printing machinery, transmitters and wireless equipment that were being used against the Japanese military rule. In November the Japanese-controlled Manila radio again disclosed that many Filipinos "leaving their ancestral homes and their families and loved ones, have joined remnants of the American forces." How desperate the Japanese must have become can be realised from an appeal by Shozo Murata, Adviser to the Japanese military administration in the Philippines, who asked the Filipinos to "understand the seriousness of the situation and not to obstruct Japan's reconstruction."

But what is this 'reconstruction' for which the Japanese want the co-operation of the Filipinos? In practice it is nothing more than the political domination and exploitation of the Philippines for the benefit of Japan. Politically, despite promises to liberate the Philippines, the Japanese have put the clock back 40 years. Whereas under the Commonwealth members of the legislature and all executives from the President down to Mayors of Municipalities were freely elected by popular franchise, now the elected

legislature has been abolished and all officials from the puppet "Chief of the Civil Administration" down to the bottom of the official scale are appointed by the Japanese military administration. Freedom of the press and speech have gone and freedom of assembly is denied. Before the Japanese came, the Filipinos knew to the minute when to expect full independence. They now have only vague and unreliable Japanese promises of independence at some date unspecified,—independence which is only to be accorded "if they co-operate fully" in Japan's "New Order."

Whereas under the Commonwealth the Philippines Government was implementing plans for readjustment of the country's economy so as to fit it for economic as well as political independence, the Japanese are now re-organising the economic life of the Philippines to suit their own interests exclusively. Japan needs the raw materials and minerals of the Philippines. She is even readjusting the agricultural production of the country for her own benefit. Sugar was previously the chief agricultural product of the Philippines. Now according to Japanese broadcasts most of the sugar mills are to be converted to alcohol manufacturing plants and the surplus sugar acreage is to be turned over to cotton cultivation. The Japanese plan to increase the area under cotton by 91,12,750 acres. While Filipinos held much the largest share in the capital and control of the sugar industry, they will have no control over the cotton industry which under the Japanese plan will replace it. According to a Domei news item of 11th August, eight Japanese cotton industry companies will directly manage the new cotton industry in the Philippines.

While the raw materials of the Philippines are thus being extensively exploited the Filipinos are suffering from scarcity of foodstuffs. The Japanese have already formed a "Food Control Association" which is more concerned with looking after supplies for the Japanese forces in the Philippines than with the needs of the civil population. As early as May last year they imported 45,000 bags of rice from Indo-China which, according to authentic reports by evacuees, was all reserved for the Japanese forces. The civil population is consequently undergoing great hardships through lack of the necessaries of daily life. An Associated Press report (26th Sept.) based on information derived from 13 Americans, who returned from the Philippines on the exchange ship "*Gripsholm*", described Manila as "an isolated and uneasy capital facing mounting hardships, with supplies nearing exhaustion". Japanese broadcasts suggest, and evacuee witnesses confirm, that unemployment is serious.

Besides this economic plight the Filipinos are also suffering the humiliation of being told by their Japanese overlords that "they have no cultural or spiritual independence, they never built up their distinct culture, and that the country itself lacks depth". Obviously the Japanese have been quite unable to appreciate the synthesis of culture in the Philippines, produced by the early influence of Arabia and India, three centuries of Spanish domination

and the last forty years of American rule. To the Japanese, incapable as ever of appreciating any way of life other than their own, Filipino culture was merely a cheap imitation of Americanism. General Homma, therefore, thought it his duty to appeal for a 'spiritual revolution' in the Philippines.

But this spiritual revolution means nothing more than the Japanization of the Philippines. Japanese has been made the official language. In schools and colleges students are being forced to learn it. Japanese school teachers are being sent to the Philippines to infuse 'new ideas'. The old educational system is to be abandoned. According to a Tokyo broadcast on June 19th, a conference of 50 school teachers and principals was called "to find out ways and means" to put into effect an educational plan prepared by the Japanese military administration. Education under this plan will be concentrated on the study of Japanese language, history and culture. Even the names of the schools are changed to commemorate Japanese heroes. The Filipino Boy and Girl Scout organisation has also been suppressed, and in its place a new Japanese-controlled youth movement has been started. Even a new book of songs, compiled by the Japanese military administration, for the elementary schools in the Philippines, begins, according to a Tokyo broadcast on 9th Sept., with "Kimigayo", the Japanese National Anthem.

It is not therefore surprising that the Japanese have made themselves thoroughly unpopular in the Philippines as in all the countries they have occupied. Their bullying methods cannot be tolerated for long. Even Tokyo admitted, broadcasting in Japanese on Nov. 14, that "the Japanese were at first welcomed by inhabitants of Java and the Philippines. But now they are less fond of the Japanese whose quick temper and slapping of people at the slightest provocation alienates many people." The Filipinos are therefore resisting Japanese rule since they know, in the words of Rizal, their national hero, that "Resignation is not always a virtue; it is a crime when it encourages tyrants."

PRODUCTION GROWS APACE.

Three and a half years ago, when this war broke out, it found the Allied countries—countries in which Labour gains more and more rights, though slowly—totally unprepared. There were differences among politicians and therefore no long term view of production. The Axis powers—countries which had crushed all labour rights and movements—were in a better position. They had mobilised all resources for one aim—war. This explains the startling victories achieved by the Axis till two years ago. But there is one point which the Axis had failed to understand, that you cannot get the best results out of labour for long if you deprive it of its rights. This will lead to the ruin and final defeat of those countries which have attempted to crush labour.

The production of the Axis is now slowing down while that of the Allies is increasing by leaps and bounds. Let me give you a few figures, first from America.

In 1943 the American war output power will be double that of the whole Axis power. Pearl Harbour, you will remember, was attcked on 7th December, 1941. Since then 1,045 shipping vessels have been launched. The average to-day is 4 ships per day. This has been possible because of the great increase in the number of men engaged in war work in America. In 1940, 70 lakh Americans were engaged in war work. At the end of last year, this figure had increased to 1 crore and 75 lakhs. It is expected that by the end of the present year, America would have built 2 crore of tons of shipping. She is producing 5,000 aeroplanes a month, which means that America alone is building over 1,000 planes a month more than the three Axis countries, Germany, Italy and Japan. By the end of this year the number of aeroplanes built per month would be 10,000. **When you remember that early in the war, Germany won her victories because of her great air strength, you will understand what a lot has been achieved.**

It is nice to think that American production is proceeding apace, but it is the kind of satisfaction which one gets by looking at the children of other people. If they are good, one is pleased but this pleasure cannot be compared to the joy of looking at one's own child. In like manner, our joy and satisfaction is far greater when we see the great strides Indian Labour has made in war production. For military reasons, it is not advisable to give all figures of our production, and in a short talk, it is not also possible, but I want to give you a few facts and figures. **Perhaps you do not know that Indian labour is making 37,000 items of armament and supply.** In this figure are included items small and big, from machine tools to armour plate and parachutes. In the last war, our steel rails carried troops and munitions to the front line. They still do so to-day, but what is more praiseworthy is that armour plate and armour piercing steel made in *our* country by *our* comrades, serve *our* soldiers and sailors in the very battle itself. Railway workshops in different parts of the country are manufacturing aircraft parts, munitions, armoured fighting vehicles, motor bodies, hand grenades (bomb thrown by hand), shell bodies and various other parts.

Let me tell you something about the importance of rubber in war time. A modern battleship requires as much rubber as is needed for 17,000 motor tyres, and the tyres of a Flying Fortress (those big aeroplanes which are bombing German war factories) weigh 100 lbs. each. We Indian workmen are producing now nearly 4 lakhs of motor truck tyres per year, 18 lakhs 70 thousand cycle tyres and 10,000 aeroplane tyres. Whether in the matter of cloth, tents, cars, spare parts, or machine tools or in the various items necessary for war, Indian production proceeds apace. Since the beginning of the war, 4,000 ships have been repaired in our docks, and some of the repairs were of

a major character. Now although we are still behind many other advanced countries, why should we not feel proud about what we have so far achieved? **Pride in past achievements and a determination to excel our last year's records means 'Hindustan ke Muzduron ki Jai'.**

U-BOATS HAVING A LEAN TIME.

REASONS FOR RECENT FAILURE.

(*The Daily Telegraph*).

The excuse of bad weather given by the Germans for the failure of U-boats in the past three months is not convincing. What is bad for the U-boats, is just as bad for merchant ships and their escorts. The effectiveness of escorts- both in the air and on the surface in bad weather is much reduced. Merchant ships are slowed down and, if we believe the Germans should present sitting targets to U-boats.

Back in 1940 and 1941 bad weather was never complained of by U-boat commanders. They had experience and seamanship to get the better of the elements. Nowadays, with commanders and petty officers coming straight from the Baltic school boats into the Atlantic, weather presents dfficulties which the German system of training cannot prepare for.

German propaganda is adopting just the same tactics over the Battle of the Atlantic as it adopted over the Russian campaign. Hitler regarded the Russian winter as unfair. Now Admiral Doenitz regards the Atlantic winter as unfair. Both use the weather as excuse for failure.

This grumbling is strange, in view of the fact that U-boat strategy is always said to be so flexible. If the weather in the Atlantic was intolerable and likely to remain so, why did not Doenitz switch his wolf packs to the Caribbean or into clamer waters elsewhere? The facts behind the grumbling about the weather are the following: (1) U-boats have suffered increasingly heavy casualties in the past two months; (2) the skill of the Allied escort vessels and aircraft has defeated many attacks on our convoys; (3) the bombing of the Lorient, St. Nazaire and Brest has seriously interfered with U-boat operations; (4) the standard of seamanship and experience of U-boat commanders is not high enough to cope with normal winter conditions in the Atlantic.

THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS CONFERENCE.

Twice each week in the roomy outer lobby of the Executive Offices of the White House in Washington, there gathers an assemblage so singularly American that it often startles foreign visitors to the Capital.

It is the semi-weekly meeting of the Washington newspaper and radio correspondents—never less than 100 of them, often more than 300—with the President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Every Tuesday afternoon and every Friday morning the journalists crowd into the private office of the nation's elected leader, ply him with searching and significant questions, and obtain a frank and open report on the country as it is affected both by the war and by its manifold domestic problems. Only information which would aid or comfort the enemy is withheld.

There is a healthy examination, by both the President and the press representatives, of the State of the nation, and from those conferences emanate the dispatches to newspapers and radio news broadcasters all over the country—indeed all over the world—which recount the day-to-day progress of the war and the variety of newsworthy developments in America.

RADIO AND PRESS CONFERENCE.

There are two ways in which President Roosevelt has given the people a keen insight into the affairs of the United States. First, he has made wide use of the extraordinary radio broadcasting and reception facilities throughout the nation. Hardly a family in America is without a radio reception set or a neighbour who will share one with them. President Roosevelt's famous "fireside chats" in peacetime, and his radio reports to the nation since the outbreak of war, have served to bring the average American citizen a complete report of the activities of the Administration he has elected to govern him.

Second, President Roosevelt, far more thoroughly than any of his predecessors in the White House, has utilised the unique channel of information to the public made possible by the custom of the semi-weekly press conferences.

The newspaper men and women begin assembling about half an hour before conference time, in the lobby of the Executive Offices, which form a wing of the White House. They while away the time until their meeting with the President, lounging in the big comfortable leather-covered chairs and couches that line the walls, or standing in groups exchanging opinions on the news of the day.

The hour of the conference is now at hand—and newspaper edition time for many of these correspondents is close. In nearby Washington offices and distant cities, editors are keeping telegraph wires open, holding up the presses, waiting for the President's news. The impatient newsmen mill about the lobby.

Now the President sounds his buzzer. He is ready for the press. One of the White House attaches claps his hands twice—a signal over the years that the President is waiting for the correspondents.

The correspondents, as they crowd into the room, remain standing. Only the President, his Press Secretary, Stephen Early, the press conference stenographer, and two or three White House aides are seated. Occasionally the President has a guest at the conferences. On his first visit to the White House Winston Churchill was introduced to the press and was given a tremendous ovation when, so that all the correspondents could see him, he hopped up and stood on a chair.

CORDIAL HOST.

As the correspondents stream into the room, the President leans back in his swivel chair, his long cigarette holder at an angle, emphasising the strong line of his chin. If it is summer he may be in shirt sleeves, one of which bears the monogram F. D. R. He exchanges pleasantries with the first arrivals, greeting most of the men by their first names; noting, perhaps, the new hat of one of the women reporters, or jesting with an old friend for putting on weight.

As the last reporter enters the room, a White House aide gives the traditional signal "All in", and the conference begins.

The President may open the interview by announcing some new policy or executive activities. He may comment on the most important development in the news of the day, or he may simply say "No news today" and invite questions from his audience. These questions are all oral. The queries range from national and international affairs of great moment to issues local to some small corner of the nation.

Soon the questions are flying fast and furiously. It takes an agile mind to deal with this barrage. But the President meets the inquisition head-on and makes no effort to conceal his pleasure in dealing deftly with some delicate query. He regards the rough and tumble exchange of repartee as a test of his own mental alertness, and frequently at the end of a conference, he will turn to Stephen Early and ask: "How did I do?"

FOUR CATEGORIES.

The information given to the press by the President at these conferences falls into four categories. The bulk of the news may be attributed to the President in the third person. The text of his remarks may be used but not in direct quotation. Thus the reporters may write: "President Roosevelt said to-day that he will ask Congress for a new Army appropriation next week."

Occasionally the President permits direct quotations. When this is done, a prepared statement is issued at the White House. The third category of information is the "back-ground" data the President supplies the press, for use without being attributed to him. And frequently helpful information is given in reports "off the record" as confidential background not to be published at all, but merely for guidance, so that the press will understand a given situation.

There is a fifth category of the statements made by the President, that in which he answers an ill-advised question by a humorous exaggeration. Thus, when United States Army bombers raided Tokyo and other Japanese industrial centres, President Roosevelt, asked where the planes had been based, replied "Shangri-La", "Shangri-La", as all the reporters well knew, is a mythical country created by the novelist James Hilton in a widely read book of fiction called "Lost Horizon".

But back to a typical conference. The last question has been asked. There is a moment's pause and then one of the older reporters, acting as spokesman for his colleagues, says: "Thank you, Mr. President".

This is a signal for a surge even more hectic than the push to enter the room. For now the correspondents, particularly those representing telegraph news services, rush to the telephones in the press room, a comfortable little office in one corner of the executive offices, reserved for the use of the newsmen.

A dozen or more reporters are assigned constantly to the White House by the press associations and larger metropolitan newspapers. These men meet daily with Secretary Early, who informs them of White House doings. They may also question each visitor to the President as to the purpose of his visit.

THE JAGERSTRASSE DIAMONDS.

(*The Daily Express*).

This is a story of £ 29,000,000 worth of diamonds.

With them the Germans hoped to maintain propagandists in neutral countries and to buy vital war materials from these countries, to send them back to Germany. Now, although in the past 12 months the Germans have resorted to large-scale smuggling of precious stones by submarine, most of this diamond fortune still lies in the frozen vaults of the Berlin Reichsbank, worth no more to the Germans than a heap of cut glass.

This is how it happened.

When the Germans occupied Holland and Belgium, they banned the sale of jewellers' stocks to any customers other than the German Government. For, they knew that only by commandeering these jewels could they obtain all the foreign exchange that they wanted for financing propaganda abroad and for getting war materials. Nobody trusted the German bank notes. With jewellery it was different. So the great diamond merchants of Amsterdam and Antwerp had to sell to Germany.

The chief neutral market for the Germans was South America. It was South American currency that the Germans wanted more than anything. And it was in South America that they hoped to set up their biggest propaganda organisation.

Then came the blow which cut them off from their market. In December, 1941, the Italian Lati airline to South America closed down. It was in these planes that the Germans had been carrying their jewels. The Lati airline ran from Rome by way of Spain, the Cape Verde Islands and Brazil to the Argentine. The Brazilian Government, which knew that Lati was not an innocent commercial concern, ordered the airline to close.

So the Germans took to smuggling. They allowed exit visas to be issued to German women who arrived in neutral countries wearing around their necks rows of magnificent diamonds, which it was their job to sell before they returned to Germany. But neutral customs authorities soon discovered this trick.

Then came a more hazardous form of smuggling: by submarine. The British Government knows that this has been going on for some time, and is dealing with it. That is why, deep in the huge brick and sandstone building they call the Deutsche Reichbank in Berlin's Jagerstrasse, the diamonds still lie in their vaults.

WOMEN'S CALL TO WOMEN.

SOVIET WOMEN'S APPEAL TO THE WOMEN OF GERMANY ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.

(*The Daily worker*).

"We anti-Fascist women of the Soviet Union call to you, German women: ,Rise also for the struggle against the Hitlerite gang! Join the ranks of freedom-loving humanity which is fighting against Hitlerism.' There is no more time to be lost. Only the overthrow of Hitler and his clique can save the German people from the imminent catastrophe to which Hitler is leading them. Down with Hitler and his tyranny!"

This appeal was addressed to the women of Germany by the women of the Soviet Union on International Women's Day, reports Moscow Radio. The appeal proceeds:

"It is already the fourth year since Hitler began to drive your husbands and sons into war against other peoples in order to plunder and enslave them. On the orders of German bankers and plutocrats, Hitler wants to enslave our peoples and to plunder our country. Millions of your husbands and sons have found an inglorious death on foreign soil. With lying promises for a better future, Hitler dragged you into war. Most of you have trusted Hitler and have followed him, in the belief that the war would be short and that Germany would be victorious. But now you are beginning to understand how shamefully you have been deceived and what misfortunes have befallen you.

"German women! you should understand that the people of the Soviet Union are not waging war for conquest. But they will exterminate mercilessly any enemy who is on the sacred Soviet soil, **if he does not surrender or leave our land. We Soviet women ask you—how much longer will you allow the Hitlerite**

gang and the German financiers and industrialists to misuse you for this criminal war? Do you not realise that, by this war, Hitler has committed the greatest crime against you? Hitler is not only the enemy of the people whom he attacks and subjugates; he is also the worst enemy of the German nation."

ROMMEL NEARLY LOST HIS PANTS!

Fleeing before the victorious Eighth Army, Rommel on one occasion came so near to capture that in making his escape he had to leave his coat behind.

Telling the story a few days ago, an Indian army officer said British tanks made a surprise attack on Rommel's headquarters.

The surprise was so complete that Rommel was forced to run for it, wearing only his shirt and shorts. His coat, scarf, and other personal belongings—including his tooth-brush—fell into our hands.

"Another minute and we'd have had the pants off him," said the tank's crew.

PUDUKKOTTAI STATE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU.

PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CXXXIX. (*Batch 4.*)

27- 3-43	Municipal Office.	6.00 p.m.	31- 3-43	Nartamalai ...	7.00 p.m.
28- 3-43	Nirpalani ...	7.00 ,,	,,	Uppiliakkudi ...	7.30 ,,
,,	Avoor ...	7.30 ,,	1- 4-43	Andakkulam ...	7.00 ,,
29- 3-43	Karaiyur ...	7.00 ,,	,,	Killanur ...	7.30 ,,
,,	Idaiyattur ...	7.30 ,,	2- 4-43	Konnaiyur ...	7.00 ,,
30- 3-43	Vadavalam ...	7.00 ,,	,,	Melaveguppatti.	7.30 ,,
,,	Sammattividuthi	7·30 ,,			

LECTURE CXXXX. (*Batch 5*).

3- 4-43	Nartamalai ...	7.00 p.m.	7- 4-43	Valayappatti ...	7.00 p.m.
4- 4-43	,, ...	7.00 ,,	,,	Vendampatti ...	7.30 ,,
5- 4-43	,, ...	7.00 ,,	8- 4-43	Vellanur ...	7.00 ,,
6- 4-43	Pallivasal ...	7.00 ,,	,,	Sembattur ...	7.30 ,,
,,	Pillamangalam.	7.30 ,,	9- 4-43	Puliyur ...	7.00 ,,
			,,	Kannangudi ...	7.30 ,,

RECRUITING—ADVERTISEMENT—4 p. m.

27—3—43	Tirumayyam.	3—4—43	Nartamalai.
28—3—43	Virachchilai.	4—4—43	,,
29—3—43	Viralimalai.	5—4—43	,,
30—3—43	Vadakadu.	6—4—43	Perambur.
31—3—43	Kilanilai Puduppatti.	7—4—43	Karambakkudi.
1—4—43	Alangudi.	8—4—43	Kilanilai.
2—4—46	Pudukkottai.	9—4—43	Pappapatti.

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai. 750—28-3-43.